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## For Our Own Good

THE MAFIA has been given a type of legitimization by the CIA attempt to buy a contract on the life of a foreign political leader.

It is the regrettable consequence of a rash thought which was fostered by the free-for-all brainstorming that occurs within an unchaperoned federal agency.

Not many citizens seem disturbed by either the CIA's amoral arrogance in this one instance or the carte blanche the agency holds.

Apparently, the agency has permission to wreak any sort of mental, moral and ideological mischief with no questions asked merely because people have been persuaded that the survival of this nation rests on a completely unfettered secret projects agency.

So now the helter-skelter agency has added one more principle of illogicality to the government's already voluminous book of tenets:

The Mafia is an enemy of the government — unless the government has use for it.

That principle comes with a corollary:

Crime is wrong — unless the government is involved.

To those of us who still believe in consistency of morals, it appears that the government has simply been shown to be a hypocrite.

No ifs, ands or buts. Of course, that has been evident for quite a while.

But hypocrisy is an expensive costume. While the federal government does not seem willing or entirely able to cut costs, it would seem that in the interests of economy Congress might drop the war against the Mafia, grant it a full scale legitimization and tax the devil out of it.

In that manner, the country while having given the stamp of approval to murder, gambling, drug peddling and prostitution, will at least reap healthy tax benefits from the questionable capers.

From the CIA, who knows what to expect next?

From that enlightening though somewhat spotty (the CIA censored sections of it) volume, "The CIA And The Cult Of Intelligence," by Victor Marchetti and John D. Marks, the nation learned that the agency supplied the Polish secret service with millions of dollars worth of gold. It is of small concern that all the time the CIA thought it was shipping the gold to the Polish underground.

With our permissive citizenry and our shoot-from-the-hip CIA, perhaps this nation will survive. Perhaps.